Corporation of India to protect the stocks under cover-and-plinth (CAP) arrangement:—

(i) Stocks are stored in CAP storage with proper drainage and dunnage arrangement;

(ii) Trie stocks are covered with polythene covers and lashed with nylon ropes;

(iii) Aeration of stocks in the open is undertaken during clear weather to maintain the health of grains; and

(iv) Periodic inspection is undertaken to control insect infestation, damage by rodents, birds etc.

The Food Corporation of India takes several measures to ensure preservation and health of the foodgrains, from the procurement of the foodgrains to the distribution stage, as indicated below:—

(i) Foodgrains stocks are procured according to the quality specifications prescribed for the purpose;

(ii) The regulated markets in the country provide facilities for cleaning, bagging and fumigation and therefore, wherever the foodgrains stock is not found to be conforming to the specifications, it is cleanediipgraded so as to bring it within the specifications prior to purchases;

(iii) Samples of foodgrains stocks are sent to the Laboratory for analysis to cross check the quality;

(iv) Foodgrains stocks in storage are subjected to regular inspection periodically;

(v) Stock in storage are given prophylactic and the curative treatment, wherever necessary. Under the prophylactic treatment, stock are sprayed with insecticides on the bag surfaces, walls and alleways between stacks and stacks and walls. Foodgrains are not allowed to come in contact with the insecticides directly to prevent contamination. Under the curative treatment, the infested stocks are subjected to fumigation. Steps are also taken to control rodent and bird infestation by installation of birds scarers, trappings and through use of rodenticides. All stocks are required to be sprayed periodically and infested stocks are fully fumigated frequently;

(vi) During raikroad movement from Food Corporation of India's depots care is taken to clear and dis-infest wagons, before stocks are loaded; and

(vii) Stocks are again examined at the time of issue of prior to their delivery for public distribution to ensure that these conform to the specifications. Bags which do not conform to the prescribed standard are segregated and upgraded before issue.

Ban on Import of Indian drugs by UAE

1390. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether UAE has banned the import of Indian drugs unless these are registered with EIC countries, U.S. or Japan;

(b) whether Government have taken up the matter with UAE and requested the latter to lift the ban; if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) In January, 1994 the UAE Government made effective their registration criteria for import of drugs and pharmaceuticals, applicable uniformly for supplies from all countries. These criteria include certain provisions requiring registration in developed countries.

(b) and (c) The Government are actively pursuing the matter with the UAE authorities with a view to

relaxing the registration criteria which would allow resumption of import of drugs and pharmaceuticals from India.

Shortage of coal in thermal power plants in Maharashtra

1391. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether thermal power plants particularly in Maharashtra are experiencing acute shortage of coal;

(b) if so, the approved monthly requirement of coal vis-a-vis actual supplies, month-wise, for the last one year in comparison to the corresponding period prior to that by the power plants;

(c) steps proposed for adequate and regular supply of coal to power plants in Maharashtra;

(d) number of linkage coal supply cases pending with CIL for Maharashtra and number of cases cleared and details thereof; and

(e) quantity and projection of coal requirement by Maharashtra power units for next five years and arrangements made for meeting the requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Power house-wise demand is assessed by the Central Electricity Authority for the whole year. However, prorata supplies required to be made to thermal power stations for Maharashtra for the period April-October, 1995 as compared to the same period last year is as under:—

(Figure in '000 tonnes)

	Data provisional
April-October 1994	12736.8
April-October 1995	15591.0

Month-wise despatches of coal to power stations of Maharashtra during the period April-October 1994 and April-October 1995 are as under:—

(Figures in '000 tonnes)
Data provisional

	Despatches	
	1994	1995
April	2051	2039
May	2169	2269
June	1905	2011
July	1644	1919
August	1522	2122
September	1736	1673
October	2042	2035
TOTAL	13069	14068

The above table indicates that despatches during the current year so far has been more than the despatches last year though they are somewhat short of the targets.

(c) Supply of coal to the power stations including those in Maharashtra are given highest priority and the same is monitored regularly by an inter-ministerial Committee. Appropriate corrective action is taken to step up coal supplies whenever necessary.

(d) During the period April-October 1995, 94 cases of consumers in Maharashtra have been given coal linkages. Out of 81 cases pending in CIL for sanction of linkage for non-core sector consumers, 38 applications are found to be deficient in certain respects. CIL have advised them to furnish the required information after which those cases will be processed.

(e) The coal requirements of the individual power-houses are assessed by the Central Electricity Authority on yearly basis based on power generation programme and within the overall coal demand for power sector assessed by the Planning Commission. As such, the requirements of coal for the power houses including those located in